

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 31 and 33 are amended. New claims 48-60 are added. Claims 1-60 are pending in this application.

Title

The Office Action suggested a change to the title of the invention. Applicant has amended the title above as suggested in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,826,243 to Musmanno et al. (hereinafter "Musmanno"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-47 are not anticipated by Musmanno.

Musmanno discloses:

Data processing for an improved securities brokerage/cash management system which supervises, implements and coordinates a composite account having a master account and one or more subaccount(s). The nested subaccounts incorporate a subset of features corresponding to the specific needs dictated by the purpose of the subaccount and thus streamline system operation for the recordkeeper. See Abstract.

The disclosure of Musmanno focuses on a master account and one or more subaccount(s) at a single entity, such as a brokerage firm. The Musmanno reference fails to disclose or suggest handling financial transactions regarding accounts at two different financial institutions.

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

A computer-implemented method comprising:

initiating a withdrawal of assets from a first account at a first financial institution; and

initiating a deposit of the withdrawn assets to a second account at a second financial institution, wherein the first account and the second account have a common account holder.

Applicant submits that Musmanno fails to disclose or suggest "...initiating a withdrawal of assets from a first account at a first financial institution; and initiating a deposit of the withdrawn assets to a second account at a second financial institution...."

The Office Action cites the Abstract of Musmanno and column 6, lines 44-65 of Musmanno as teaching the elements of claim 1. Applicants have reviewed the cited portions of Musmanno, but fail to see any disclosure or suggestion of "...initiating a withdrawal of assets from a first account at a first financial institution; and initiating a deposit of the withdrawn assets to a second account at a second financial institution...."

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Musmanno.

Given that claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-11 are likewise allowable over Musmanno for at least the reasons discussed above.

Independent claims 12, 22, 38 and 42 contain limitations similar to those discussed above in claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with

respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 12, 22, 38 and 42 are allowable over Musmanno.

Given that claims 13-21, 23-30, 39-41 and 43-47 depend from claims 12, 22, 38 and 42, respectively, Applicant submits that claims 13-21, 23-30, 39-41 and 43-47 are likewise allowable over Musmanno for at least the reasons discussed above.

The remaining independent claim (claim 31), as amended, recites:

A method comprising:

analyzing a plurality of accounts having a common account holder, wherein at least one of the plurality of accounts is associated with a first financial institution and at least one of the plurality of accounts is associated with a second financial institution;

determining whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of accounts would benefit the account holder; and

transferring funds between the plurality of accounts if such a transfer would benefit the account holder.

Applicant submits that Musmanno fails to disclose or suggest "...wherein at least one of the plurality of accounts is associated with a first financial institution and at least one of the plurality of accounts is associated with a second financial institution...." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Musmanno.

Given that claims 32-37 depend from claim 31, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 32-37 are likewise allowable over Musmanno for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 48-60 are allowable over Musmanno.

Conclusion

Claims 1-60 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 23, 2003

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Version of Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made

31. (Once Amended) A method comprising:

analyzing a plurality of accounts having a common account holder, wherein at least one of the plurality of accounts is associated with a first financial institution and at least one of the plurality of accounts is associated with a second financial institution;

determining whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of accounts would benefit the account holder; and

transferring funds between the plurality of accounts if such a transfer would benefit the account holder.

33. (Once Amended) A method as recited in claim 31 wherein transferring funds includes transferring funds from a first account at [a] the first financial institution to a second account at [a] the second financial institution.

48. (New) A method comprising:

initiating a transfer of funds from a first account at a first financial institution to a second account at a second financial institution, wherein the transfer of funds is performed using an Automated Clearing House network; and

wherein the first account and the second account have a common account holder.

49. (New) A method as recited in claim 48 wherein the first account and the second account are asset accounts.

50. (New) A method as recited in claim 48 wherein the transfer of funds is effectuated using a debit instruction and a credit instruction.

51. (New) A method comprising:

initiating a withdrawal of funds from a first account at a first financial institution, wherein an instruction for the withdrawal of funds is initiated by an entity other than the first financial institution; and

initiating a deposit of the withdrawn funds to a second account at a second financial institution.

52. (New) The method as recited in claim 51 wherein the first account and the second account are asset accounts.

53. (New) The method as recited in claim 51 wherein the deposit of withdrawn funds utilizes an ATM network.

54. (New) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the second account is a new account being funded by assets from the first account.

55. (New) The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the second registered account is a new account being funded by assets from the first registered account.

56. (New) A method comprising:
opening a new account at a first financial institution;
identifying a second account at a second financial institution; and
initiating a transfer of funds from the second account to the new account,
wherein the new account and the second account have a common account holder.

57. (New) A method as recited in claim 56 wherein the transfer of funds from the second account to the new account utilizes an Automated Clearing House network.

58. (New) A method as recited in claim 56 wherein the transfer of funds from the second account to the new account utilizes a payment processor.

59. (New) A method as recited in claim 56 wherein the transfer of funds from the second account to the new account issues a debit instruction associated with the second account and a credit instruction associated with the new account.

60. (New) A method as recited in claim 56 wherein the new account is an asset account.